



CRYSTAL PLACE NEWS

Happy Easter

Jeanie Barnett 261-1852

April 2009

Good Economic News

"It looks like we're going to get through this thing without participating."

---economist Dr. Loren C. Scott said of the national recession's effect on south Louisiana.



A New Day for Central

Jeanie Barnett

"For decades now, the tax dollars collected from Central residents by the city-parish have amounted to little more than legalized extortion." This is the opinion- (or should I say observation) of many in Central. Our roads and bridges, parks, and especially our public schools have consistently been last on the list of priorities for maintenance and improvements.

This is a new day. Being incorporated as our own city has given us the use of our own tax money in some cases and even more influence as to the use of some parish-shared taxes such as the one dedicated to BREC. Having our own school system means that tax dollars dedicated to our schools will actually go to **Central's** schools...for **your** children and grandchildren.

For many years, the majority of Central residents have dreamed of having their own school system. A Central community school system would easily be ranked among the best in the state, given the high standards of the administration, the involvement of the parents and support of the community. Now everything is in place. Those dreams are coming true, with the exception of the overcrowding and the deplorable condition of some school buildings that EBR left us with. The passing of the sales tax and property taxes would probably cost you little. See the specifics below.

As I said last month, I won't tell you how to vote, but I will tell you that I plan to vote in favor of all three propositions. They are all sound and financially responsible. Please do what is right. Please vote your heart.

Proposition 1

If it passes:

... it will cost you 50 cents more per \$100 you spend in additional Central area sales tax.

Result: New Middle School.

Proposition 2

If it passes, approximate cost to you:

Value of your home	Cost per month
\$75K	\$0
\$100K	\$1.92
\$120K	\$3.46
\$140K	\$5.01
\$160K	\$6.55

Result: Essential safety code compliance of current schools.

Proposition 3

If it passes, approximate cost to you:

Value of your home	Cost per month
\$75K	\$0
\$100K	\$3
\$120K	\$5.40
\$140K	\$7.80
\$160K	\$10.20

Result: New Elementary School

April Fool's Day jokes and pranks can make you healthier!

Did you know...When we laugh, natural killer cells that destroy tumors and viruses increase, along with gamma interferon (a disease fighting protein) and T cells and B cells (which make disease-fighting antibodies). Laughing lowers blood pressure, increases oxygen in the blood with deeper respirations, and helps address the effect of mental stress on the arteries.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Proverbs 17:22

This newsletter is published purely as a means to help insure the livability of our subdivision. The editor creates this publication at no charge and is not responsible for the accuracy of the content submitted by others. No items resembling gossip or defamation will be included. To make donations, suggestions or submissions, please call Jeanie at 261-1852.



May is the perfect month to have a subdivision-wide garage sale day. Other subdivisions have had such great success in having a garage sale day for their neighborhoods, they have made it an annual event. Everyone with things to sell simply sets up and puts a sign out. With a number of homes holding sales at the same time, it is guaranteed there will be lots of customers. Everyone has time to clean out their closets before May. With these cooler mornings, you can even get into the attic!

All we need is someone to simply be the contact person to coordinate a date, advertisements and signs. You could even schedule pickup of unsold items for charity. There is usually a lot of pre-sale swapping going on during the organization process, so those who participate can get the best stuff early.

If you want to have a garage sale at your house on that day, all you'd have to do is put a sign in your yard...they will come!

If you will volunteer to be the contact person, give me a call at 261-1852 and I can be the go-between.

Eggs, Bunnies and Crosses



Easter got its name from Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of fertility and rebirth. European tribes celebrated the beginning of spring at the vernal equinox, when day and night are equal in length, by blessing seeds growth and placing colored eggs on an altar. They believed that this ceremony would bring them fertility for the upcoming year.

The story goes that Christian missionaries noticed that this pagan celebration took place around the time of the resurrection of Christ, so they adopted Easter as a Christian holiday to increase conversions to Christianity. Jesus Christ was crucified on the day after Passover and resurrected three

days later. The anniversary of this event roughly coincided with the pagan celebration.

The Romans believed that all life proceeded from an egg, so the egg came to symbolize birth and rebirth. Christians regarded eggs as the seeds of life and attributed them with the symbol of Jesus' resurrection. The rabbit was used in early Easter celebrations to symbolize fertility, perhaps because these animals give birth to multiple offspring at a time. Anglo-Saxon mythology says that Ostara changed her pet bird into a rabbit to entertain a group of children, and the rabbit laid brightly colored eggs for them.

The Easter basket evolved from a Catholic tradition, where each

family brought a basket of food to mass on Easter Sunday to have it blessed for the evening meal. Later, children would use Easter baskets to gather colored eggs and candy.

I doubt there are many ancient Romans or European pagans reading this, so what most of us will be celebrating this month is not the vernal equinox of spring or fertility of planting season, but the miracle of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

